

## ROLL CALL

### NATURAL RESOURCES

[illegible]

**MONTANA STATE SENATE  
2007 LEGISLATURE**

**VISITOR REGISTER  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

DATE 2-9-07

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY HB 24, SB 337

**PLEASE PRINT**

NAME	PHONE	REPRESENTING	BILL #	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Mark Lambrecht	457-5367	PPL MT	HB 24	✓	
DAVID RYAN	490-6233	WPSA	SB 337	✓	
Jennifer Hill-Hart	443-7272	ARIZO	SB 337	✓	
Pat Deleo	690-2667	Geoco	SB 337	✓	
Russ Doty	696-2842	GEBCO	SB 337	✓	
STEVE CORRICK	549-8777	GOBCO	SB 337	✓	
Don Allen	443-5541	WETA	HB 24	✓	
John Fitzmaurice	449-4819	Northwestern Energy	SB 337		X
John Fitzmaurice	"	"	HB 24	X	
EVAN BARRETT	"	GOED	HB 24	X	
BUD CLINCH	442-6023	MCC	HB 24	X	
Dave Galt	442-7552	MPA	HB 24	X	
RICIE MOORE	696-0931	NREL	HB 24		X
HALEY BEAUDRY	560-5404	CFAC	HB 24	X	
Tom Ebzery	441-753	Puget Sound Avista Pacificorp	HB 24	X	X
John Allen	431-4636	MDC	SB 337	X	X

**PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY**

## SB 241 Testimony

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I am Mark Fix and I am the chair of the Northern Plains Resource Council. I am also a rancher and irrigator on the Tongue River about 20 miles SW of Miles City.

Montana has been blessed with land that has sustained families for generations through agricultural production. Montana is also rich in energy resources, but we must seriously consider how to draw out these resources in order to ensure a stable and bright economic future. I have met many of the Northern Plains members over the years and made them my friends. Northern Plains members are farmers and ranchers and city folks as well. Our common bond is that we all love Montana and want to protect the land the way it is for future generations. From the mountains in the West to the prairies in the East, Montana is the last, best place.

Senate Bill 241, the oil and gas reclamation act ensures that Montana will always be the last, best place.

This bill requires that the oil and gas industry maintains the quality of the land that Montana's farm and ranch families have depended on for generations.

We feel that requiring reclamation of land used for oil and gas development is a step towards Montana's goal of responsible energy development

Coal bed methane (CBM) is being touted by some as an economic booster. CBM extraction, however, involves more damage than conventional oil and gas drilling and the need for careful and thorough reclamation is greater. I would have passed out some photographs to illustrate the problems if I had made it to Helena. I will send the photographs via mail so that the committee can see some of the problems faced with CBM. The photos show several holding ponds in need of reclamation. These ponds can easily cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to reclaim.

In another photo the soil is heavily salted and damaged from land application disposal of the CBM water. It may take several years to reclaim this land. Some of it may never be reclaimed.

We must hold the oil and gas developers accountable for reclamation of these soils. With all of the roads, the pipelines, power lines, compressor stations, ponds and drilling pits, reclamation must be done to sustain the livelihoods of the farmers and ranchers that have kept up this land for years.

This legislation will:

- Require reclamation plans before permit approval.
- Establish reclamation requirements, similar to those for other extractive industries.

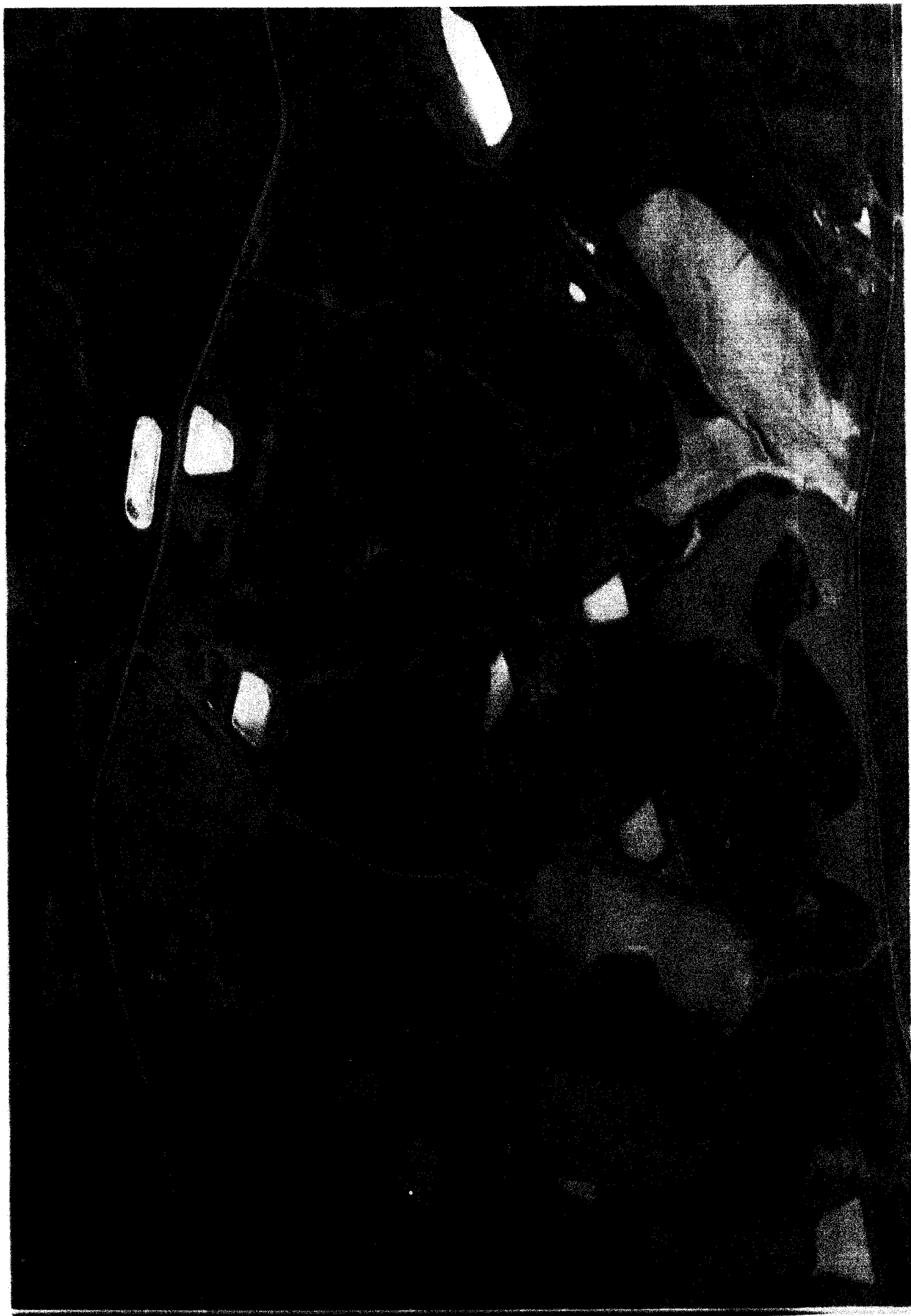
- Require the completion of reclamation requirements before bond release.

Oil and gas based economies are volatile. For example, based on the CBM experience in Wyoming, we can expect to see money to come into southeastern Montana for the next 7-10 years as a result of CBM extraction, but then what? It is essential that we look at ways to see how Montana can extend the benefits of CBM development. One of the ways we can do this is by ensuring that reclamation takes place. Reclamation creates jobs and most importantly restores valuable range lands for agricultural purposes. Agriculture has been and will be Montana's number 1 industry long after the CBM industry peaks and fades away.

I urge you to support this legislation.

MARK FLX  
HC 32 Box 4196  
MILES CITY MT  
2-2-07

CBM POND S LINED & UNLINED COMPRESSOR STATION  
ROADS



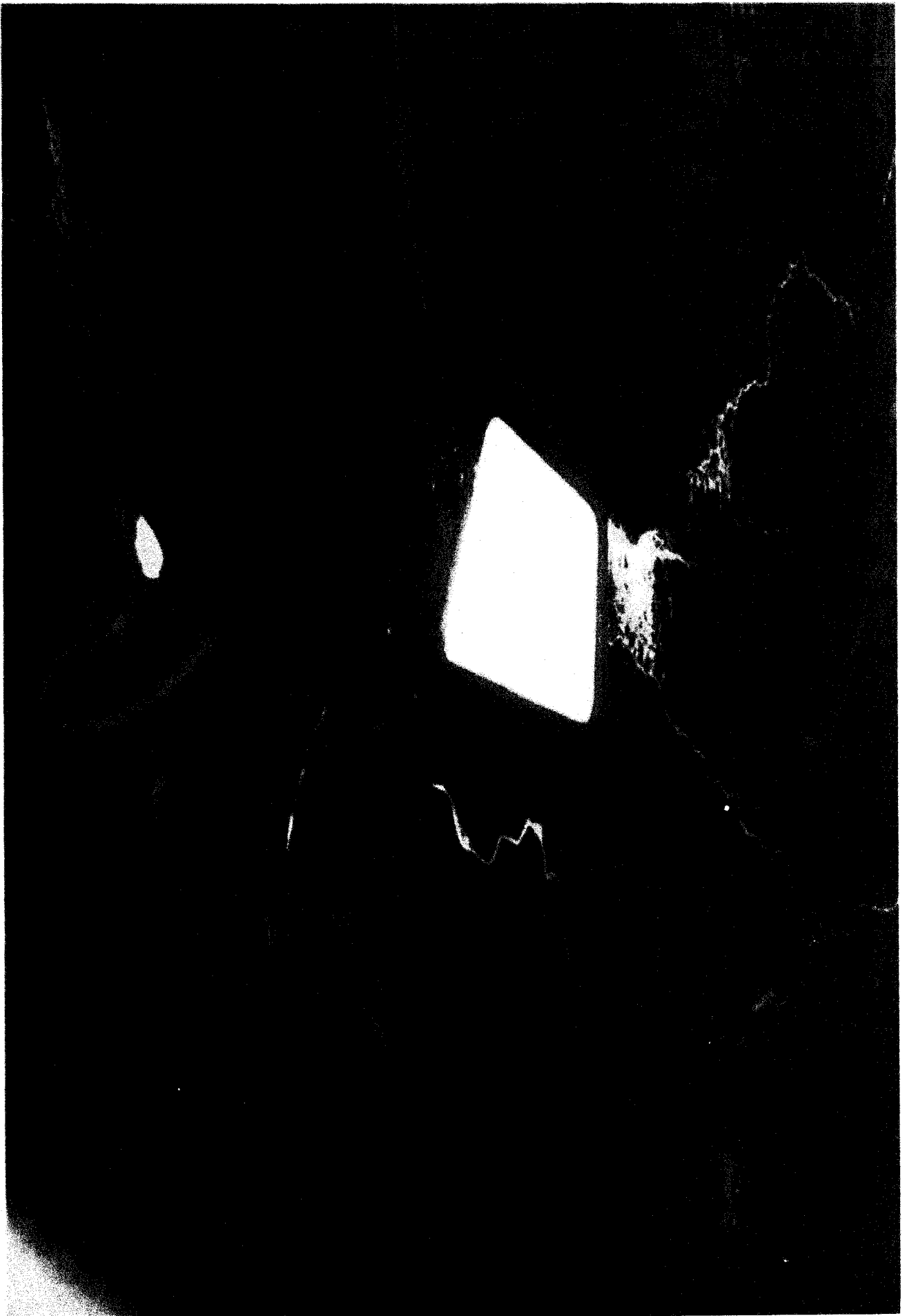
CBM Ponds



RUTS MADE IN LAND TO APPLY AMENDMENTS



HOLDING POND WITH WATER LEAKING

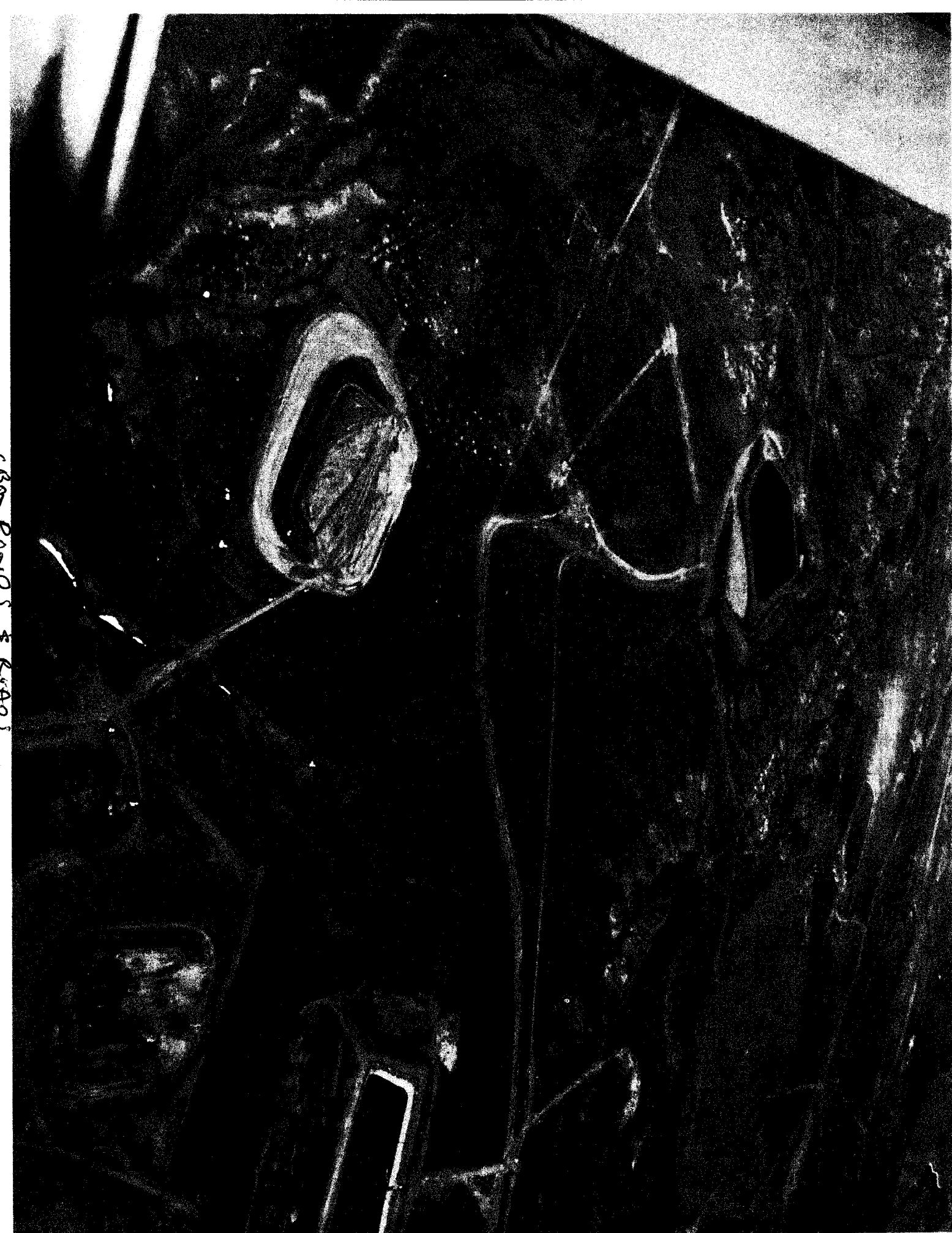




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